

Queer Things Out West

HOW THE LANDS BEYOND THE ROCKIES ARE BOOMING

(Special Correspondence of the Desert News by Frank G. Carpenter.)

UNTIL recently I have not been in Salt Lake for about a dozen years, and I now find it a new city. It has 50,000 people and is fast becoming a manufacturing center. It already has some of the largest smelters of the world, and it will quadruple them in the future. Those here now are reducing about 2,000 tons of ore daily, and others are to be added which will increase the output to 25,000 tons. This makes the city lively, but it is to some extent destroying its beauty. The smoke and sulphur fumes affect the vegetation, and if the new smelters are not put at a considerable distance from the town it may eventually be as bare of green as the Desert of Sahara. This is the condition about Copper Cliff, Canada, where the great nickel mines are, and if it is so in other smelting centers where sulphur is mixed with the ore.

THE UTAH MINING CAMPS.

Utah is steadily growing as a mining proposition. Its output in lead, copper, silver and gold has risen between three and four hundred million dollars. The copper mined last year was worth \$10,000,000, the gold \$2,000,000 and silver about the same. So far the mines of all kinds have paid out in dividends something like \$75,000,000, and it is claimed that only a small part of the state has been prospected. Senator Clark's new railroad, which goes from here to Los Angeles, has just issued a folder labeled, "The West Is a Treasure House," in which it estimates the gold, silver, copper and lead blocked out and exposed in the country reached by it at a million dollars, and the amount already mined and marketed at \$10,000,000. Estimates like this are probably overdrawn, but there is no doubt that the product will run high into the millions.

TOURISTS AND ONE-LUNGERS.

Senator Clark's road is adding to Salt Lake's popularity as a tourist center, and the citizens here are advertising it for all it is worth through their association, whose motto is "See America first." This is now the shortest cut to southern California, and travelers to that region can save about two days on the railroad by going this way. As a result most of them stop off and many stay. The altitude here is about eight times that of the top of the Washington monument, and the route from the Rockies is such that the people breathe champagne. I know of a number of eastern business men who are now living here because they cannot stand our moist cold winters. The air is dry and bracing, and is excellent for one-lungers and other consumptives. The most of the citizens are decidedly healthy-looking. Their cheeks are rosy, their movements brisk and no one would believe that many of them came here to die and that not a few have but a single lung in their bodies. This is true of Colorado and it is especially true of southern California. Indeed, the far west has about the only out-of-door climate that one can use the year around.

ABOUT LOS ANGELES.

Los Angeles, for instance, thrives upon climate. It has increased about 2,000 per cent in population since 1850, and it doubled between the years 1890 and 1900. The citizens are now claiming 200,000, and they expect to have a half million by 1910. The enormous fortunes which have been produced within the past few years are driving the rich and well-to-do to the most comfortable spots, and Salt Lake, Los Angeles, Portland and other such cities are all getting their shares.

Los Angeles has a large number of millionaires, and its bank clearings range between \$300,000,000 and \$400,000,000 a year. Its population is made up almost entirely of eastern men, and a recent census showed that only 10 per cent of the people were natives. There are almost as many people in Los Angeles from Ohio or Illinois as from California. The city has 3,000 voters who

came from Pennsylvania, 2,000 who originated in Iowa and more than 2,000 made up of emigrants from Missouri. A somewhat similar proportion prevails as to the residents of Salt Lake.

THE RUSH FOR VACANT LANDS.

I am surprised at the appetite which has sprung up over the United States for cheap farms. Our people are beginning to realize that the vacant lands are almost all taken up and that from now on farm lands will everywhere rise in value. As a result of this every new Indian reservation that is opened is having a hundred applicants for every homestead. The people are crowding

er valley. There are now three companies there redeeming lands to the amount of about 300,000 acres. They are working under the government reclamation projects, the government giving the lands to the settlers who are to pay fixed rates for the water right. The companies will charge about \$10 per acre for such rights, and after that a maintenance fee of a dollar per acre per year. In those regions it is estimated that 50 acres is a good-sized farm and at that rate the valley will furnish about 4,000 farms, giving it a population of 20,000 souls. Another project is to reclaim the great Silver Lake desert by the surplus waters of the Deschutes river, which now run to waste in the winter time.

fall of the water still produce 90,000 horsepower and that there will be a million tons of water dropping down daily out of a channel 14 feet wide in a vertical fall of more than a quarter of a mile. This power will, it is estimated, sell for more than enough to pay the interest on the investment. It will be furnished within 25 miles of Los Angeles, and the receipts therefrom will, it is calculated, bring in something like 1 per cent on the total investment. The undertaking of a scheme like this gives one some idea of the Los Angeles spirit. The people of that city are among the best boomers of the west. Every one is interested in the growth of his town, and is willing to spend time and money to help it. Los Angeles has a chamber of commerce which belongs to the city, and its chamber of commerce comprises 2,300 members, who each pay \$1 per month. A magnificent exhibit of the products and manufactures of southern California is always on show, and new schemes are gotten up every week or so to advertise the country and push other methods of increasing the population.

PORTLAND AFTER THE FAIR.

Another city which has been growing very rapidly is Portland, Or. Although it cost the people something, the exposition was a paying investment. It was not succeeded by a slump at the close, such as Chicago had after the world's fair and such as St. Louis felt for a time at the end of the St. Louis Purchase exposition. The merchants of Portland tell me that business has been good right along, and that their trade has steadily increased. The jobbers are now doing a business of something like \$200,000,000 a year, which is \$10,000,000 or \$40,000,000 more than in the year before the exposition. Real estate values have gone up fully 25 per cent, and live on the principal busy streets are now selling at one, two and three thousand dollars a front foot. There are many new residences and several sky scrapers in course of construction.

THE RICHEST ON THE PACIFIC.

Portland men claim that their town is, man for man, the richest on the Pacific coast, and that the people are more evenly well to do than in any other city of the world. Portland has ranked among the wealthiest cities for many years. It is surpassed only by San Francisco, the main, which gets its wealth through the Rothschilds and other big banking interests, and by Hartford, Conn., which is replete with the savings of the poor stored away in the various insurance monopolies. The riches of Portland come from business and trade. Its situation, well inland on the wide and deep Columbia, makes it an excellent shipping point for a great part of the inland empire, and it is one of the chief lumber ports of the world. It ships in the neighborhood of a million barrels of flour every year, and a vast amount of barley and wheat.

It is a financial center. It has 15 banking institutions with deposits of between \$40,000,000 and \$50,000,000, and its clearings are in the neighborhood of \$200,000,000 a year.

As to commerce, it is the chief port of the valley of the Columbia, and it has a large number of wholesale and retail firms, some of which are operated with considerable capital. There are 33 business institutions each of which has a capital of a million dollars or more, and 45 whose capitals range between \$200,000 and \$1,000,000. The city has 2,000 manufacturing establishments which produce goods to the amount of \$30,000,000 a year.

LOOKING FOR TOURISTS.

The city of Portland has had its appetite whetted by the fair, and it now looks upon its scenic and climatic surroundings as a commercial asset. I spent some time in the chamber of commerce talking with the leading business men, and from them learned that the travel has been large since the fair closed, and that there have been many accessions to the permanent residents from persons in search of comfortable homes. All of these Pacific coast cities have

Salt Lake and Its Smelters—Utah's New Mines—Los Angeles and the Owens River Project—The Rush For Cheap Farms—Big Irrigation Schemes by the Government and Others—Portland After the Fair—"See America First"—Making the Desert Bloom—Arid Lands Which Produce Crops Every Two Years.

an excellent climate, although each has features of its own. The black current, which flows by Japan up around the lower shores of Alaska and then down by Puget Sound and off the coast of Oregon, acts as a great hot-water plant to make the winters warm. Seattle is never cold, and in Portland the thermometer seldom falls below 20 degrees above zero. At the same time the summers are never hot and the moist air paints the cheeks of the children and young women with roses. Indeed, the girls of our northwest have complexions equal to those of Scotland, Ireland and England, where the gulf stream is the painter.

The grass is green in Portland all the year round and the roses bloom from

indeed the government schemes for reclaiming our arid lands are just at their beginning. Those already undertaken and planned will involve an expenditure of about \$32,000,000, and when completed they will make fertile almost 2,000,000 acres of land. This land is now worth comparatively nothing, but when the water is on it, it will bring something like \$50 an acre. The average price has been estimated at \$47 an acre, and at this figure the total would be worth \$94,900,000, adding that much to our national wealth.

A large part of this reclamation is west of the Rockies and in some places millions of dollars have already been spent. In southern Oregon and north-

alone has 23,000,000 acres of such soil. It is desert, but if the rain can be saved it will produce abundantly once in two years. All that is needed is that the land should be plowed deep in the fall and the top kept well stirred. This holds the moisture and the 12 inches of rain in one year becomes 24 inches in two years, resulting in a big crop if planted the second year.

There are now six experimental farms working in the Utah desert. They are supported by the state and are testing all matters regarding desert reclamation. It is expected to have an arid farm established this year, and to show that wheat can be raised on lands which are now considered almost worthless. At present Utah is selling such lands at \$120 an acre.

The men who are testing the matter claim that the land will produce 15 bushels of wheat per acre, which at 75 cents per bushel would net \$11.25. They say that it costs \$2.50 per acre to raise this wheat, so that a man could pay for his land with his first crop and have about \$5 per acre to the good. This statement is made by the officers of the experimental station at Logan, Utah. FRANK G. CARPENTER.

Somewhere—Sometime.

Somewhere, but why not here? We dream of happy lands, far far away. Beyond the mystic borders of time. Where softly falls the light of perfect day. Which knows no night of some celestial clime.

Where fairest flowers bloom, nor know the breath Of winter, or the chilling touch of death. Somewhere, but why not here?

Somewhere, but why not here? The spirit worn with earthly care and strife. Dreams of the future home of joy and peace. And longs for endless rest, when human

With all its labors and its pain, shall cease. Hope when the span of mortal years is past. Sweet rest and peace and joy will come at last. Somewhere, but why not here?

Somewhere, but why not here? Men think of life immortal as a gift. Which must be won through years of toil and pain. That only is the race unto the swift. That all must pass Death's valley, ere they gain.

The joy and blessing of eternal years. The heav'n where God shall shine away all tears. Somewhere, but why not here?

Sometime, but why not now? O waiting one, lift up thy darkened eyes. Upon the Light that's shining now for thee. And let thy soul drink in the glad surprise.

Thou need not look beyond the narrow place. Of death, to find the soul's true resting place. Or see the glory of the Master's face. Sometime, it may be now.

Sometime, but why not now? Aye, now He waits beside thee, and He stuns. To be thy Rock of Refuge from the blast. Thy Shelter from the heat and in His hands.

He leads thee countless blessings now. Thou hast His gift of life eternal, it is thine. E'en now His token of the Love Divine. Sometime? Oh, no! "Thy now!"

Sometime—let it be now! Oh, leave thy head upon that loving breast. Accept the offers of His boundless love. Find in the shadow of His wings thy rest. Learn to enjoy His presence here, above. All earthly joys that unto thee are given. And thou shalt find even here, thy heaven.

Sometime—let it be now! —Nellie Ballard Rogers.

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THE PORTLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.



LOS ANGELES AS IT LOOKS IN 1906.

Christmas to Christmas. The people are fond of an out-of-door life and they are about as healthy as the citizens of any United States town. Their death rate is a little over 9 to the thousand, while Chicago has 15, Cleveland 17, Denver 18, Cincinnati 19, and my own city of Washington, D. C., 23. In other words, considerably more than twice as many out of every thousand people die in Washington every 12 months as in Portland.

MAKING THE DESERT BLOOM.

I found the people of Portland talking about irrigation quite as anxiously as those of other sections. A large part of eastern Oregon is arid, and it is claimed that much of it can be reclaimed. There are altogether something like 42,000,000 acres in that part of the state, of which less than 2,000,000 are under cultivation. I am told that there are about 12,000,000 acres which might be reclaimed if the water available were properly used. This is an area almost half as large as the state of Ohio, and it would support more than a million people. I have already spoken of the Deschutes river scheme on the eastern side of the Cascades. Oregon is doing other work in reclamation, and at the close of 1904 the state had contributed almost \$5,000,000 dollars for national irrigation projects.

ern California there is a project to redeem 300,000 acres by the diversion of the Klamath river, and the Malheur river, in eastern Oregon, if properly used will redeem several hundred thousand acres in the Umatilla valley. In Arizona \$3,000,000 have been set aside to redeem 180,000 acres of land by the Salt river project, and in Idaho the Mindoka project will redeem 60,000 acres at a cost of \$1,300,000.

In Wyoming the Shoshone project will redeem 125,000 acres and will necessitate the construction of the highest dam in the world. The dam site is in a narrow canyon with perpendicular walls about a third of a mile high and the dam itself will be 210 feet in height. In addition to these there are other projects under construction and approved by the secretary of the interior in Colorado, Nebraska, Nevada, Wyoming, New Mexico, South Dakota, North Dakota, Montana, Arizona and Washington. I have already written of the Milk river scheme and of irrigating parts of the inland empire.

CROPS EVERY OTHER YEAR.

In addition to the arid lands which can be irrigated, I understand there are vast tracts in the west which will produce crops every other year if the ground be properly cultivated. Utah



CARDINAL GIBBONS URGED TO REMAIN ON INSURANCE COMMITTEE.

Cardinal Gibbons last week declined the appointment as one of the members of the international policyholders' committee in the New York Life and the other insurance companies. He assigned as a reason his inexperience in matters of this kind and because he has not the time to devote to the work.

The officers of the international policyholders' committee have written to Cardinal Gibbons asking him to continue on the committee with the understanding that he may name an alternate to attend the committee's meetings. The fact that he would not be able to attend the meetings was Cardinal Gibbons' chief reason for resigning. The committee is very anxious to obtain Cardinal Gibbons' services and it is believed that the prelate will withdraw his resignation and consent to serve under the terms of the committee's proposition.

SCIENTIFIC MISCELLANY.

A singular condition, known as congenital word blindness, has been brought to notice by ophthalmic surgeons within the last few years. Its victims have great difficulty in recognizing printed words or learning to read, and a recent inquiry in London

Thomas to conclude that about one person in 2,000 is affected to a considerable degree. The trouble, most common in the lower classes, occurs much more often in boys than girls. Last year a bright boy of 11 could only make out a few words of three letters with difficulty, although he had been in a special class four years, and could read Arabic numerals, work out problems

words when spelled aloud. In another case a really brilliant child became an excellent surgeon, getting his knowledge at lectures and classes, with practically no reading. The initial difficulty is having so many letters to remember, with so many variations in sound, and for treating the world-blind on English teacher has devised a special series of reading books, with simplified and phonetic spelling until the pupil is considerably advanced.

For an artificial rubber a German authority recommends mixing an infusion of Caribbees moss with starch, and drying on a slightly oiled metal plate. When the transparent sheet produced is broken up, it softens in cold water, and on subsequent heating it forms a thick, gummy substance, which may be used for thickening paint or for many of the purposes of rubber.

In a National Matrimonial bureau among the reforms to be proposed by President Roosevelt? Expert opinion seems to regard it as already proven that more scientific selection of husband and wife cannot fail to produce a more virile and higher type of American men and women.

One of the queerest of odd creatures is the mud-skipper or jumping-fish of the large rivers of India and the neighboring seacoasts. At ebb tide these little fishes leave the water to hunt for tiny crabs, flies, etc., and their strong pectoral and ventral fins, aided by their tail, enable them to move about easily and to climb upon trees, grass and leaves. With their huge eyes, seeming to project far out of their sockets, they can see as well on land as in the water. They progress in short, quick leaps, effected by sharply bending the rear third of the body to the left and suddenly straightening it. In color they are usually bright brown with dark bands, though they sometimes appear light green. They are easily caught, and are much used in Burma for live bait.

Lead wool, a new British product for packing waterpipes, consists of very small ribbons of lead, cut by patented machinery in lengths of three feet. Hemp or yarn is first pressed into the socket, and then the strand of lead wool is twisted in and well caulked at each turn until the whole space is tightly packed with a mass of lead. It is claimed that the joint is stronger and more satisfactory than when closed by the usual troublesome method of running in molten lead.

The asteroids or minor planets, of which nearly 600 have been recorded since the beginning of the nineteenth century, have been supposed to form a ring in the space between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter. One discovered on Feb. 22 of this year, however, has a unique interest in having been proven to be beyond Jupiter. Its mean distance from the sun being 5.25 to Jupiter's 5.20, while its aphelion distance—6.151—exceeds that of Jupiter by nearly the earth's distance from the sun.

Of 20 accidents from electric shock in Switzerland last year, 21 were fatal, while Austria had but six fatalities in 56 cases. A fifth of the accidents were from currents of 250 volts or less, and a man was killed by a 120-volt three



PERKINS OUT OF NEW YORK LIFE COMPANY.

After a connection with the company extending over 27 years, George W. Perkins, son-in-law of J. Pierpont Morgan, has resigned as trustee of the New York Life Insurance Company. In a special supplementary report, the Fowler investigating committee has absolved Mr. Perkins of any irregularities growing out of the insurance scandals.

shock from 25,000 volts did not kill. Of 15 attempts at resuscitation, only one was successful.

A continuous change in altitudes in mountainous regions, especially in the Swiss and Austrian Alps, has been noted by M. de Varnagay, a Swiss geologist. Many villages in the canton Valais and in the Bernese Oberland have been raised or lowered from 12 to 30 feet in the last six years, and the summits of mountains have undergone

slight earthquakes are suspected of being the chief cause of the phenomenon, or at least they accompany it, while they produce avalanches in number now increasing.

Recent corrections of surveys show that India is placed on the world's maps 600 feet northward and two and one-half miles eastward of its true position. Altitudes are five to 15 feet less or more in error. Mount Everest's corrected height being 29,141 feet instead of 29,005 as actually given.

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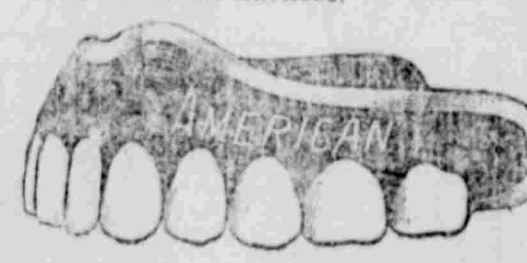
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